|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Composer | Anton Webern (1883-1945)  Austrian composer, conductor, and musicologist  Pupil of Arnold Schoenberg  Conducted theatre orchestras in Prague and in various German cities  Career suffered under the Third Reich  Shortly after the war, he broke curfew to smoke and was shot by an American soldier | |
| Genre | Chamber Orchestral Symphony | |
| Context/Influences | Visual art’s pointillism  Dedicated to his daughter, Christine | |
| Unifying features | Being a theme and variations, it has a repeated theme  Based on a tone row  Notes are in extreme registers of instruments  Pointillistic style – instruments will play only a few notes before another instrument will take over the melody | |
| Compositional Style | Serialism  Pointillism  Minimalism  Atonal (which extended beyond melody to rhythm, timbre, and dynamics)  Neoclassical  *Klangfarbenmelodie* (“tone colour melody” – distribution of a melodic line to lots of instruments)  Brief and subtle  Highly concentrated pitch language | |
| Melody | Disjunct  Extreme registers  Repeated motif of bizarre notes | |
| Harmony | Dissonant  Atonal | |
| Tonality | Twelve tone scale | |
| Rhythm | Hard to find a pulse  Short staccato notes | |
| Form | **Movement 1** – Sonata-allegro | **Movement 2** – Theme and variations  Theme  var. 1 – double canon  var. 2 – trio  var. 3 – pointillistic  var. 4 – turning point  var. 5 – pointillistic  var. 6 – trio  var. 7 – double canon  Coda |
| Texture | Sparse instrumentation: clarinet, bass clarinet, two horns, harp, first and second violins, viola, and cello  Pointillistic | |
| Timbre | Dark  Clear  Piercing  Transparent | |
| Expression/Dynamics | Primarily terraced  Very intense | |